

## Andrew Jackson to John Jackson, June 18, 1805, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO JOHN JACKSON.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A merchant in Philadelphia. Jackson's hopes with respect to Prior's lands were disappointed. Prior did not sell. See Joseph Anderson to Jackson, Mar. 24, 1806.

Hermitage, June 18, 1805

*Sir*, A Mr Norton Prior of Arch Street Philadelphia holds by marshals sale under a Decree of our court of Equity for west Tennessee 40,000 acres of land, lying on the three forks of Duck river. This land I wish Bot. and If you will undertake the agency either as a partner in the purchase, or otherwise you will confer an obligation on me. This is a valluable tract; at present covered by the Indian claim—but this incumbrance, likely will be removed, ere long by treaty—indeed there remains but little doubt, but at the ensuing treaty which is to be held next month the indian title north of the Tennessee will be extinguished and should this be the case, this will be a valluable property.

you will confer an obligation on me, on the Recpt of this to see Mr Prior, and make him the following proposals from me—first if he will make a general warrentee Deed I will give him fifteen thousand dollars for 40,000 acres, lying on the three forks of Duck all in 5000 acre tracts the first beginning on a stone or rock in the mouth of the war trace fork, marked with a number of letters as named in the patton—in five anual payments, or if more pleasant will make him a payment, on the Execution of the Deeds, this as small as can be stipulated on and not to exceed three thousand Dollars—the Ballance in five anual payments, without Interest, But rather than not close the Bargain, to bear Interest from the Date. Should Mr

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Prior be fearfull of the tittle, and prefer makeing a special warrenty—from him and his heirs only, in that case I will give him ten thousand Dollars; Two in hand on the Execution of the Tittles and the Ballance in four anual payments, without Interest. Notwithstanding I think the title a good one I would make one third difference for the risque and I have no doubt he as a prudent man and in great need of money would prefer the latter—his Debt to be well secured. If Either of these proposals suits him you are authorised hereby to close it on my part with him, so far as you can, so as to make the contract binding, on the money being paid and satisfactory security given to his agent here who he may appoint for the purpose of making the titles.

Should neither of these propositions meet his approbation draw from him a proposition in writing, what he will receive for the 40,000 acres as above described—the Bargain conclusive on his part. If I should exceed to it in a certain Period of time, allowing sufficient time for the Passage of the letters by mail—should you incline to be interested in the purchase, you may, as far as one fourth or one third—should you not, will freely allow you a liberal commission, on the contract being closed. Will you on the recceipt of this, be good enough to see Mr Prior, and sound him on the subject, and write me immediately on the subject. If he is inclined to sell close with him immediately, if he will exceed to either of the foregoing proposals—get it lower if you can. It is I repeat a valluable property.

Mr. Prior will recollect me, I was well acquainted with him whilst in congress, he often called upon me for information relative to this property, and is well advised of its quality, but I am informed he wishes to sell, should he not as soon as it is liable to taxation it will be sold for the taxes, unless great care and large funds, the tax will amount to from one to Two hundred dollars pr anum.

Our goods are not yet arived, we expect to hear from them daily. I have not recd. a line from you, since your acknowledging the recpt. of the Bills.

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I am sorry to find that any of my Phil. friends should be so contracted as to take offence at my intrusting my business to you. I am attached to the name, have full confidence in you, and as long as you will forego the trouble will continue to intrust you with it—their offence notwithstanding. I am a free agent, will do Justice to all as far as exertion and honest endeavour will permit, and their smiles or frowns are equally indifferent to me, except, as a good citizen it is pleasant to have the smiles of all. Will you be good enough to ask Mr Boggs, to state to me whether he has heard anything of our cotton shipd. to Green and Wainright, by their Mr D[avidson] Spring 1804, and if acpt of sales has reached him to forward us a statement of acpt and so forth.

I cannot conclude without calling your attention to the first object of this letter. If Bot. it is a handsome estate, the purchase worth more than I dare name. With best compliments to your lady and sincere wishes for your welfare and happiness believe me to be, your mo. ob. serv.